



**VERMONT**

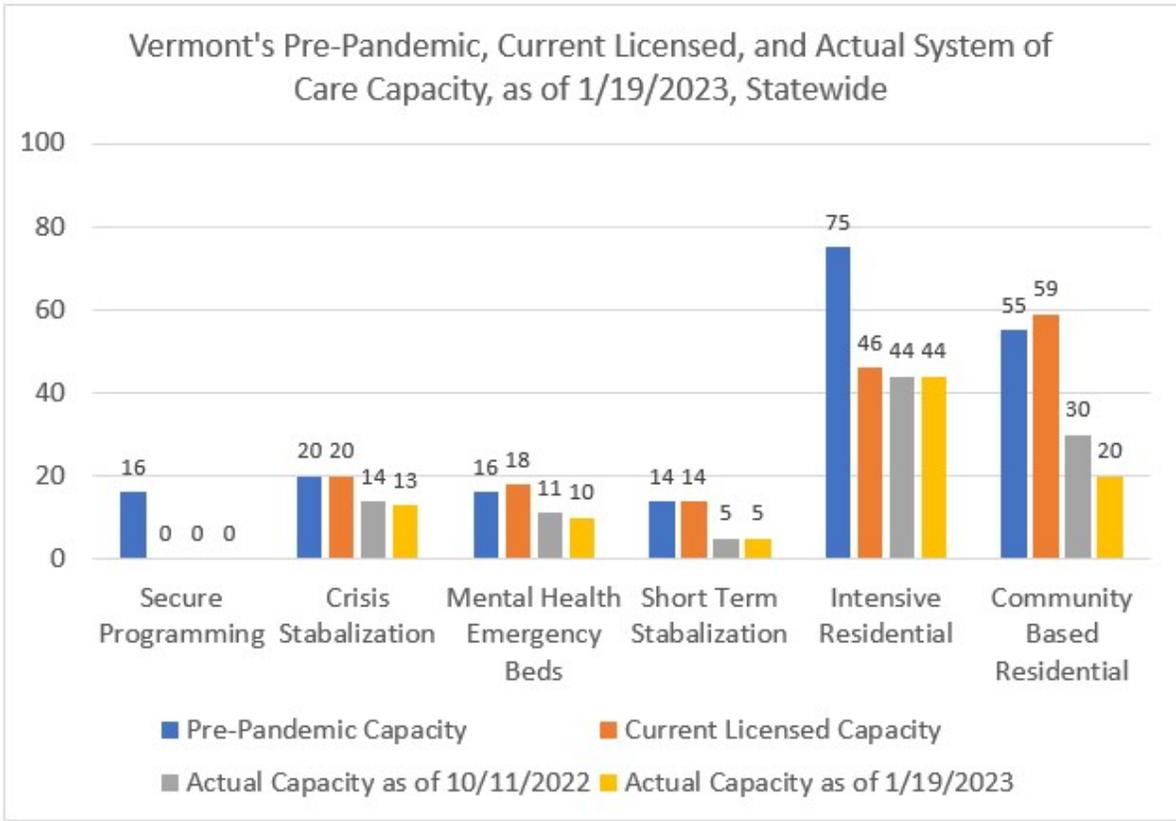
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**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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# Act 160 Final Report: DCF Proposed High-End System of Care Plan

- Updated description of youth populations presenting the most significant systems vulnerabilities
- Updated information regarding the state of DCF's System of Care
- Proposed plan (descriptions of projects underway to fill in needed systems gaps)
- Partner engagement efforts and other recommendations



Data Source: Residential Capacity in Vermont- 1.19.2023 Spreadsheet.

Current High End System of Care Capacity

# Current Challenges to the High End System of Care

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*Factors leading to a need for stabilization include:* destructive or assaultive behaviors, mental health crises, placement disruption, concerns of risk to self or others, likelihood to "run," etc.

*System impacts of high acuity-youth in crisis needing stabilization include:* need for greater supervision reduces program capacity and creates "logjams," possible disruption of programming which consequently reduces capacity to address needs of that youth or other youths

*Impacts on youth include:* absent a short term, secure stabilization program, the Department is left to staff youth directly in alternative and potentially destabilizing settings.

A complete system of care meets youth where they are and in the most appropriate and supportive environment.

# Proposed Plan, High End System of Care (HESOC)

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**Short-Term Secure Stabilization:** Hardware-secured physical structure with generalized therapeutic programming, designed to immediately manage acute safety crises for any justice-involved youth.

**Short-Term Secure Treatment:** Hardware-secured physical structure with specialized therapeutic programming, designed to address behaviors that present risk to personal or public safety for appropriate justice-involved youth.

**Staff-Secure Crisis Stabilization:** Community-based physical structure with generalized or specialized therapeutic programming, designed to immediately manage acute crises for any youth,

**Psychiatric Residential Treatment:** Community-based physical structure with specialized therapeutic services designed to serve youth with intensive mental health or developmental needs.

# Windham County Collaboration – Two Programs

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## **The Rest Stop**

Currently in operation; an alternative, emergency placement solution for one youth to be temporarily held while awaiting more permanent placement

Relies on Staffing pattern utilizing FSD staff, sheriffs, and other providers as appropriate

## **Staff-Secure Crisis Stabilization**

Two bed, staff-secure crisis stabilization program with sheriff support.

Current in design, contracting, and construction phase.

# Proposed Plan, High End System of Care (HESOC)

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# Temporary Secure Stabilization- Modular Build

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BGS and DCF are designing and developing temporary solutions for an architecturally secure facility to accommodate the needs **of up to 8 justice-involved youth** of any age or gender requiring secure treatment, education, and care

Working with architects, BGS and DCF are developing plans for modular buildings

BGS and DCF staff conducted site analyses to identify the most viable locations for the rapid development of a temporary facility; these site visits have assessed both existing structures and grounds review

Project emphasis is on physical security, therapeutic quality of space, and timelines

This temporary facility will meet the need for secure stabilization until a permanent facility can be built

# Modular Build, cont.

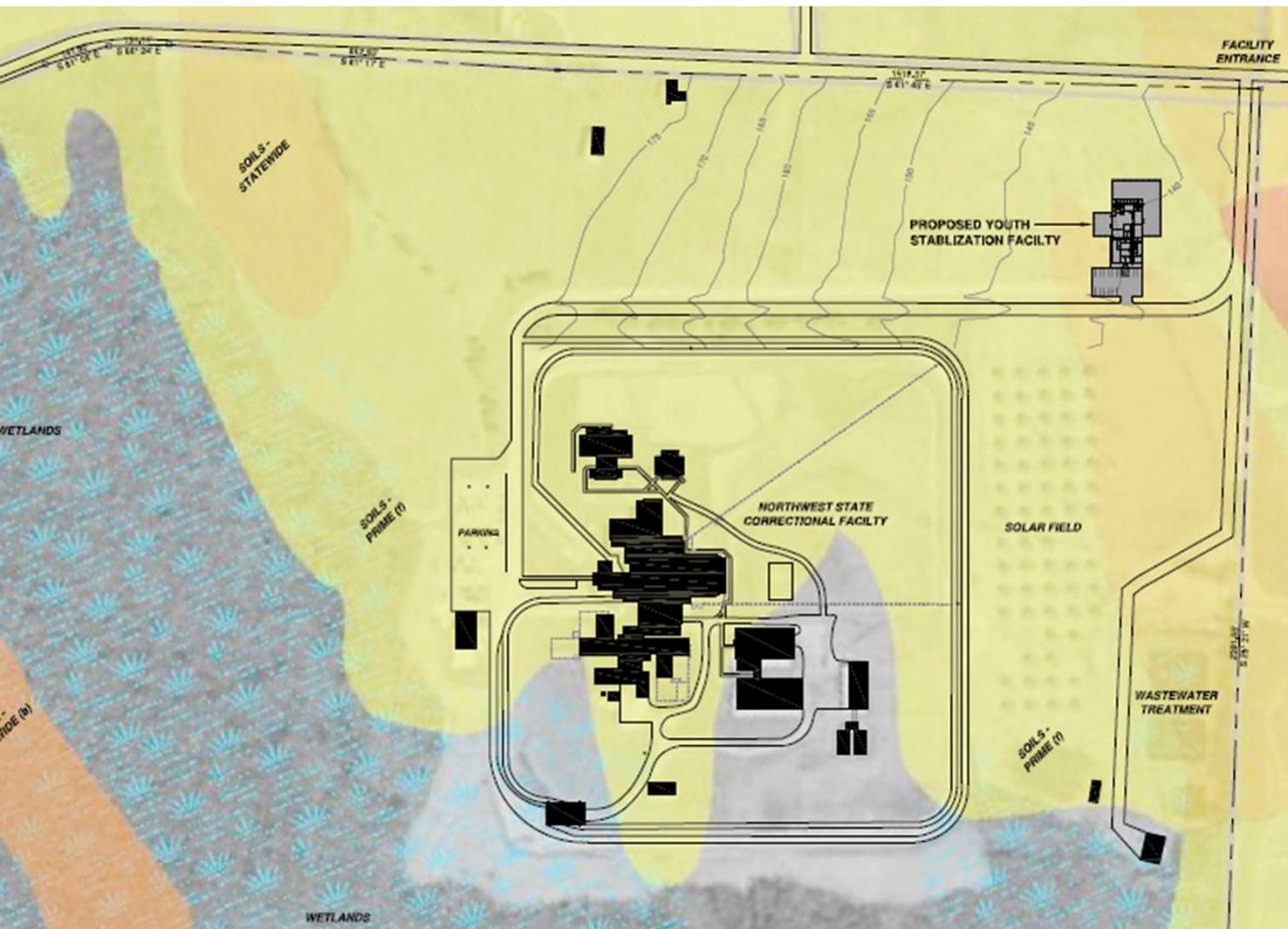


Examples of modular or “pod” solutions for facilities



# Floor Plan Example





# Potential Siting Option

# Timeline and Next Steps

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Identify a site for modular unit placement. Consideration of sight and sound separation is critical.

It will likely take up to one year to develop, build, and set modular units.

Continued evaluation of potential temporary placement on the NW property and continued engagement with stakeholders including local officials.

BGS is following up regarding required permitting, zoning questions, etc.

**The modular facility will meet the need for secure stabilization until a permanent facility is built, and it is imperative to move forward as quickly as possible with planning – including siting – for a permanent facility.**